

**Ruben D. Grijalva**  
**Director**

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
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## **BIOGRAPHY**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva as the director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on April 24, 2006. Chief Grijalva had filled that position as acting director since January 2006. Prior to this appointment, Governor Schwarzenegger had named Grijalva as the 13th State Fire Marshal of California on August 16, 2004. He served in that capacity for almost three years.

Previously, Chief Grijalva was the fire chief for the city of Palo Alto, California for 10 years. He has 33 years experience working in the field of public safety. He had worked for Palo Alto since 1990, becoming the fire chief in 1994. Prior to that Chief Grijalva worked for the city of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Safety, for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities. Chief Grijalva has expertise in criminal justice administration and the development of fire, building, and hazardous materials regulations. As State Fire Marshal, he played a significant role in California's decision to adopt the ICC International Building and Fire Codes.

While in Palo Alto, he focused on introducing new technologies to the fire service, improving emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. He has had extensive experience in negotiations of various types, from labor negotiations to legislative and code development to hostage negotiations. He was recognized for his role as the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 incident at ESL Inc., in Sunnyvale, California where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history.

Chief Grijalva currently serves on Governor Schwarzenegger's Hydrogen Highway Network Senior Review Committee, is on the Board of Directors of FIRESCOPE, and is a member of the National Association of State Foresters as the California State Forester.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**January 2006 – Present**

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (Director)**

**2004 – 2007**

**California Office of the State Fire Marshal: (State Fire Marshal)**

**1994 – 2004**

**Palo Alto Fire Department: (Fire Chief)**

**1990- 1994**

**Palo Alto Fire Department: (Assistant Fire Chief)**

**1985 - 1990**

**Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety: (Fire Marshal)**

**1983 - 1985**

**Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety: (Public Safety Lieutenant / Fire)**

**1979 – 1983**

**Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety: (Public Safety Officer / Fire)**

**1976 - 1979**

**Sunnyvale Dept. of Public Safety: (Public Safety Officer / Police)**

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- National Association of State Foresters (2006-Present)
- National Association of State Fire Marshals (2004-2007)
- Chairperson, State Board of Fire Services (2004-2007)
- Ex-Officio Member, California Film Commission (2004-2007)
- Board of Directors, FIRESCOPE (2004-Present)
- Hydrogen Highway Network Senior Review Committee (2004-Present)
- Fire Official of the Year, California Building Officials (2004)
- International Code Council Government Relations Advisory Committee (2005-06)
- International Code Council Government Member (2004-Present)
- California Fire Fighters Joint Apprentice Committee (Management Sponsor)
- Past President, Fire Chiefs Department, League of California Cities (2002-2003)
- Past President, Santa Clara County Fire Chief's Association (1998)
- Commissioner, Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Commission. (1991 – 1994).
- Director, Palo Alto City Employees Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. (1990- 1993).
- Committee Member, International Fire Code Institute (IFCI) Uniform Fire Code Committee (1990-1993).

- Chairperson, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Toxic Gas Ordinance (AB1021)(1989-1990)
- Chairperson, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Northern California Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Committee, Northern California Fire Chiefs Uniform Fire Code Committee (1985 - 1990)
- Development Committee Member, Western Fire Chiefs Article 80 Re-write Committee (1985-1988)
- Hostage Negotiator, ESL Incident - Sunnyvale, California (February 1988)

## **EDUCATION**

- San Jose State University, Criminal Justice Administration , 124 semester units, 3.92 4-year cumulative GPA
- San Jose City College, Liberal Arts, AA Degree
- Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Certificates; Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Management.